

## Children's Summer Theater receives rave reviews

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez  
Editor

"The Hidden One," "Lightning Larry," "The Enchanted Storks" and "Kiss the Brown Bunny" were the plays that turned many base children into shining stars during last months theater performance.

The four plays, directed by Public Health Service spouse Wendy Douglas, received rave reviews during the first theatrical performance formed by an all base childrens cast on Monday, August 4.

"It was wonderful," said Navy Spouse Karen Rodriguez. "I think the director did an excellent job and the children were really enthusiastic about it."

The children, who ranged in ages from 5 to 16, made up the cast. "This is really fun," they said.

"This is my first time acting," said six-year-old Dolores Flores who played a cow girl in "Lightning Larry." "My favorite part was when I came running onto the stage on my horse."



Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez

In the play "Lightning Larry," Lightning Larry turns the bad guys into good guys after he encounters them doing their bad deed.

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Barracks almost complete



## Desert Rattler duo selected for CPO

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez  
Editor

"Are you kidding me," said Tonya Owens when her husband first told her he had just made chief. "Nope, I really made it honey."

After 16 years in the Navy, this was his second time going up for Chief. "I was surprised when LT Richard Braunbeck gave me the good news," said Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Selectee (AW) Robert Owens. "But I am glad I will soon be able to wear the khaki uniform."

Out of almost 5,000 newly selected Chiefs, two of those included two Sailors from the Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit in El Centro. It was a happy feeling for the Strike duo who were very

pleased when they heard the results.

"It was a good feeling," said AOC (Selectee) (AW) Fred Walker who works in the Quality Assurance division at Strike. "I just wish I had made board prior to this, but this time is as good as any time."

Walker's brother, who is in the Marines, also congratulated him. "It's about time you caught up to me big brother," he said. Walker's brother is a Gunnery Sergeant, the equivalent of a Chief in the Navy.

Although they are not exactly Chiefs yet, the Strike duo

Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez



Walker and Owens will first complete a few weeks of indoctrination before donning the khaki uniform.

are very excited about their selection.

They will have to go through a brief indoctrination before they can finally wear the Khaki uniform, and be inducted into one of the greatest associations in the Navy: The Goat Locker.



# NAF's Fire Department charges to the rescue

## Coyote wild fire

By Dale R. Bower  
Fire Prevention Inspector

In the early morning hours of July 17<sup>th</sup>, the Fire Department was notified by the NAF Emergency Communications Center that the base structural fire engine company was needed for an out of county "Strike Team" assignment. A wild land fire had broken out in Northern San Diego County near the community of Warner Springs. It was threatening businesses and homes in the area, as well as a Boy Scout Camp, that was directly in the fire's path.

NAF's Engine 7122 responded with Captain Larry Deitchman, Engineer Randy Caldwell and Firefighters Anthony Hernandez and Robert Heine. They joined over 200 other Fire Fighters from various fire agencies in the Southern California area to

combat the fire, which had been named the "Coyote" fire, which grew to nearly 20,000 acres before it would be contained.

The "Strike Team" was made up of a Chief officer from the Calipatria Fire Department (Strike Team Leader) and five fire engines and crews from Calipatria, Brawley, Imperial County, NAF El Centro and Calexico. The team was also assigned to structure protection and wild land fire suppression. When not on the line, they were sent to Fire Camp to clean up, eat and rest.

Strike Teams are always kept together and function as a single unit even though there are multiple fire companies within the unit. After five days of battling the Coyote fire the Strike Team was processed out of fire camp and released back to Imperial County. Traveling together on their way back home, the Strike

Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yepez



From left to right: CAPT Larry Deitchman, and Firefighters Randy Caldwell and Anthony Hernandez stand next to Fire Engine 7122.

Team was approaching the Border Checkpoint on Hwy 86 N when they were called to assist on a two alarm structure and vegetation fire in Westmorland. The fire in Westmorland was gaining headway on the fire fighters already at the scene, and with the help of the five additional fire engines and crews, they were able to bring the fire under control. The emergency stop in Westmorland added another three

hours to the five and a half-day fire assignment.

It's not widely known that sometimes the Fire Fighters here on station are called out to protect other areas in the community and surrounding Southern California Counties. So when you see these Fire Fighters, give them a thumbs up for a job well done. You never know when you might see them again.

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## Running Late

*"Oh no, what did I hit"*

By LT Robert Church  
Base Chaplain

It was one of those mornings, hectic, confusing and not nearly enough coffee in my system. I rushed out of the house knowing I would be late, as the chastising military voices in my head kept repeating, "you're late, get going, be on time, be on time!" Slamming the car into reverse, I shot out of the carport, only to feel and hear a sickening "thud" behind the car. My heart raced into my throat as bands of anxiety tightened around my head. "Oh, my God, what did I hit? Did I hit a kid on a bicycle? Did I hit one of my neighbors jogging past the house? What did I DO?" Looking back behind my car, I could see something lying in the street. I saw my big, ugly, trash container on its side. At that moment, it was the most beautiful thing in the world. It was



Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yepez

not a child, it was not a runner and I knew all would be well. I was able to breath again as my heart slowly descended out of my throat to resume its customary position. After putting the container away, I took a minute to consider what had happened and what could have happened that morning. I vowed to take a little extra time, even if I'm going to be late, and be a bit more "situationally aware," because the next time it might be something, or someone, other than trash day.

You can now checkout lawn mowers, power cords and weed eaters from the Auto Hobby Shop on Saturdays from 0800-1600.



September 2003 Navy wide Examination is scheduled as follows:  
E6 Thursday Sep 4      E5 Thursday Sept 11      E4 Thursday Sept 18





# New Transient Barracks Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Scheduled for end of September

By JO2 Carmichael Yopez  
Editor

"The new barracks will be like staying at the Holiday Inn or the Best Western," said Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, LT Peter Aparico during an interview with Channel 13 (CBS) affiliate news reporter, Milrose Basco last month.

The construction project, which began on June 20 of last year at a cost of more than 15 million dollars will be one of the most modern lodging facilities in the country.

The three story building will have 160 rooms each with a kitchenette and bathroom.

According to Aparico the new facility will have a common area which will house a large conference room, an entertainment room, a large kitchen, a computer room and state of the art sports



CH 13 Reporter Milrose Basco, interviewed LT Peter Aparico on the completion progress of the new Transient Barracks.

facilities adjacent to the building.

The common building will be managed by the Base Housing Department and should be utilized by base members and visitors.

"The new barracks are centrally located, adjacent to both operational, MWR and Exchange and Commissary facilities," said Aparico. "The rooms will be comparable to those in local hotels."

Other features include modern



Photos by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez

The basketball court looking North from the third floor of the East wing of the new Transient Barracks is one of three courts the building has.

electrical and mechanical equipment, shaded gazebos, gas grills and solar panel systems for energy conservation.

"This project is reflective of the current quality of life improve-

ment initiatives the Navy is striving for. I am confident that the service members who visit will have a favorable impression of the new accommodations at NAF El Centro," Aparico said.

## Pest Control

By Tony Hunt  
Housing Department

There are many avenues you can go to reduce the need for pest control service and all avenues are to be taken before calling for service.

Prior to your acceptance, all housing units are treated for pests. Upon acceptance the responsibility of pest control becomes yours. Pest control does not rely solely on pesticides. Good sanitation is the number one success story supporting pest control. Some of the things you can do to control household pest are:

- \* Deposit garbage in plastic bags inside trash cans.
- \* Wipe up spilled foods or drinks immediately.
- \* Do not keep empty soft drink cans or bottles under the sink, and rinse them well before placing in the recycle bins.
- \* Store leftover food in airtight containers.
- \* Clean up immediately after your pets.

Light to moderate infestations of

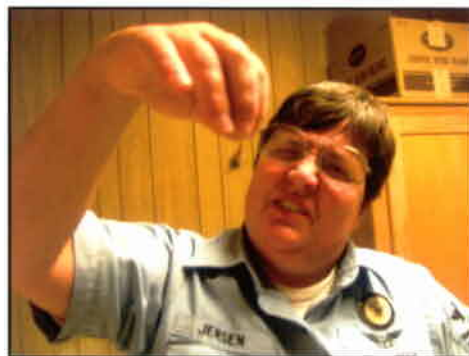


Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez

cockroaches, ants, ticks, fleas, mice, and other pest inside and outside is the responsibility of the occupant. The Commissary and commercial stores stock an assortment of pest control products. The use of non-residual insecticides labeled safe for application by the general public, such as household spray insecticides, is expected of the resident. When occupant efforts fail to control such pests you may make a service call and pest control service will be provided for you. Also if you feel you have termites or find a beehive on your property call the service desk at 339-2204.

## Energy And Water Conservation:

By Tony Hunt  
Housing Department



This is a housing reminder to conserve water and energy as much as possible.

Outside lights should be turned off during the daytime and before going to bed at night. Televisions, stereos, computers, and appliances should be turned off when not in use. If you notice your address light is on during the day, please call the service desk for repair. It should not be on during the daytime.

Set your sprinkler times to prevent water overflowing and running down sidewalks or into the streets. Call the service desk at 339-2204 to report broken sprinkler heads or gushing water and leaky water faucets inside the house. We thank you for your support in conserving energy and water.



# Children's Summer

Continued from pg. 1

Although she only had a small line to say in "Lightning Larry," the entire audience broke out in laughter when she said in a childish southern accent, "I think we really done some damage boys."

When Douglas first arrived at NAF about a year ago she noticed there was plenty of athletic activities for children to do, but nothing artistic. So she decided a theater for children would be a good summer activity.

"All children like to pretend," Douglas said. "The children were timid at first about speaking, but they learned fast. They learned about stage and acting and since we didn't have microphones, they learned to project, but the most important thing was they participated in an activity where they had lots of fun."

"Our favorite play was Kiss the Brown Bunny," said Strike Fighter's Officer in Charge, LT







# Theater

Rick Braunbeck and his wife Kim, who attended with their 10-year-old daughter Julia and 7-year-old son Richard. "The kids were laughing through the entire play."

"I thought the program was good because it kept us kids busy for the summer, especially for kids who want to be in acting," said 11-year-old Jaszmyrn Counts, who had various parts in different plays. "My favorite part was

making new friends."

Twelve-year-old Ariel Jutras said, "I loved the acting and making the costumes."

Overall the experience for the children was a positive one. It kept them busy, they learned some new things and had some fun.

"They did an excellent job," said Rodriguez. I'd like to see them do more plays in the future."



Photo Feature By  
JO2 Carmichael Yopez





# El Centro Sailors to receive extra money in their next pay check

By YN1 Michael Martin

Admin Yeoman

CONUS COLA, or Continental United States Cost of Living Allowance, is a monthly stipend intended to offset the variations in non-housing cost of living in the numerous geographic locations service-members are stationed.

The 1995 National Defense Authorization Act approved and established the rationale that no one should exceed 108 percent of the nationally averaged cost of living. Certain locations that exceed 108 percent are given index points from 1 to 9, which reflect a direct percentage of basic pay (one index point means you get a one percent COLA per month).

COLA impacts nearly 36,000 service members in 44 Military Housing Areas and 36 other counties in the Continental United States. COLA indexes



Photo by: JO2 Carmichael Yopez

have been computed for all military housing areas (MHAs), which represent major metropolitan areas and installations throughout CONUS.

MHAs, a collection of zip codes, are determined and defined by the BAH program. Other areas are also considered as eligible for the program based on costs for communities in the vicinity.

Indexes are adjusted annually based on new cost data.

A private contractor who conducts a price survey in each community provides local market prices. Availability and average savings from the use of commissary and exchange facilities are provided by those facilities based on periodic price comparison studies. Utilization

rates for commissary and exchange facilities are obtained from surveys conducted every three years by the Per Diem, Travel and Transportation Allowance Committee. This survey is mailed to 6,600 CONUS-based Service members randomly selected by pay grade, service, and geographic region. The Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics determines each category's weight.

The end result is each area designated as beyond the 108 percent threshold is compensated via a taxable monthly allowance.

The good news is, El Centro now receives a 1 percent COLA, retroactive to 1 January. September 15th, everyone should receive a retroactive payment equal to one percent of your monthly pay for the last 8 months. For more information about CONUS COLA, see the Disbursing Office or call ext. 2545.

## Military spouses- you now have some job options

By NC1 Pamela Jensen

Command Career Counselor

The Department of the Navy and Adecco (one of the countries largest staffing services companies) has established a program in order to provide free help to military spouses in building careers.

Through Adecco Career Accelerator, military spouses receive career counseling and training from Adecco recruiters who place these spouses in available positions at Adecco's client locations, at no cost to either the service member or the spouse. It's widely acknowledged that spouse employment affects retention. As Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Personnel Programs Anita Blair explains, "As necessitated by military obligations, spouses frequently move from one part of the country to another. This presents challenges to spouses who want or need a job or who are trying to build a career.

Spouses face the choice to either sacrifice their career and start over at the bottom again or to sacrifice their family life."

"Adecco Career Accelerator helps military spouses take command of their careers. The program is a big step forward in employment assistance for military spouses. Adecco Career Accelerator works hand in hand with on-base employment assistance programs provided by the Navy and Marine Corps." Opportunities are available in a wide range of positions, from clerical, administrative, data entry, IT and light industrial, so spouses who want to take command of their careers may explore a variety of options.

Adecco was selected due to its proven ability to assess skills, provide training, and match a person with a position that utilizes his or her skills. Opening the program to other Navy and Marine bases enables more spouses to 'enlist' with Adecco, build their

careers as temporary workers with a very successful staffing company and retain vacation and other benefits as they change locations.

You will now have the chance to maintain your career, build seniority, earn benefits and be able to take them with you the next time you are reassigned. The mobile nature of the military involves duty stations around the world. Frequent family moves make it very difficult for spouses to establish meaningful careers and additional financial security for themselves and their families. Too often spouses have been asked to sacrifice careers for the sake of their military spouses who serve our nation.

The office nearest to El Centro is: 8144 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA 91941-6437; phone: 619-668-8600. Additional information can be found at <http://www.usadecco.com/careeraccelerator/index.html>.



Dancing Classes @ the Fitness Center Monday and Wednesdays @ 7 p.m. For more information call 339-2488





## Attention to Quarters

Quarters was held at the Base Theater on Thursday, August 21. CAPT Paul Ziegler presented the following awards: Above from left to right, MA1 Gary Groesbeck received a Good Conduct Medal. ABE2 Michelle Adair received a Good Conduct Medal. JO2 Carmichael Yopez received 2 Chief of Information Awards for the Sandpaper. AC3 Brandy McCormick received a Good Conduct Medal. HM3 Floyd Barbee was NAF's Junior Sailor of the Month. Cathy Harper received a recognition letter for outstanding service as acting Housing Director. Welcome Aboard to our new August Indoc Class and their families. From left to right: AEAA Yan Foust (Strike), AO3 Roberto Garcia (Strike), OS2 Charles Cobbin (Security), AMAN Sherwin Hernandez (Strike), AOAN Megan Bermudez (Weapons) and AC2 Jennifer Hirsch (Operations).



## Renter's Insurance: Why you should look into it

By Dr. Lynn Flowers

*Family Advocacy Representative*

Hurricanes and other weather disasters can and do happen, even here in El Centro. If you have renter's insurance, you can avoid the financial disaster that can result from the damages of a hurricane. Insurance can also protect you from the losses due to fires or burglaries. In fact, most renter's insurance policies cover fire, theft, falling objects, wind, water, hail, and lightning, as well as smoke, civil commotion, vandalism, explosions, and even a car that drives into your living room. Coverage varies by location, policy, and insurance company. You should ask your insurance company exactly what is covered before buying your policy.

### Will Your Landlord or Base Housing Cover Your Losses?

Landlords insure their property against damage, as does the government. Unfortunately, your personal belongings are not typically insured by landlords or by the

government.

### Are Your Possessions Worth Insuring?

You might be surprised at how much your few belongings add up to. You might also be surprised at how affordable renter's insurance can be. If you still think you don't need insurance, inventory just one room in your home. Estimate what it would cost to replace each item at today's market value.

### Do You Know Exactly What You Have?

Most of us don't know about all of our possessions. Your insurance company won't reimburse you for items that you can't remember to claim. There are several ways to take inventory of your possessions: Videotape: Take a few hours to videotape your belongings. You can read aloud all the serial numbers, brand names, and special features.

Written list: This method is time consuming, but thorough. Listing items, descriptions, serial numbers, brands, and manufacturers can help ensure that you are accurately reporting your loss.

Pictures: After the film is developed, write down on the back of each photo all the important information about that item. You can also take a picture of your bathroom

cabinet and at least you'll have a photographic reference of all those expensive cosmetics and body lotions.









Make sure you store the inventory information away from home because a fire or flood could not only wipe out your personal belongings but your list as well. You can store it in a parent's home, a safe-deposit box, or with a trusted friend.

### Do You Need Worldwide Coverage?

At some point in your military career, you will probably move overseas. Check to see if your renter's insurance has worldwide coverage. Also, ask if the policy covers your household goods while in transit on any move, whether within the United States or abroad, and to what extent your property is covered. If you are going on an unaccompanied tour, call your insurance agent and find out if your renter's insurance will cover your spouse's belongings as well as yours while you are separated. So, examine your situation and your insurance needs. Then, check with insurance companies to see which plan meets your needs and offers competitive rates. For further information, contact the Fleet and Family Support Office at 339-2241.



# MWR schedule of events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
September RV Storage Special min 2 months and 3rd month free Call Ext 2689	<b>Labor Day</b> 1	<b>School Starts</b> Chef's Surprise Buffet Mexican Buffet 2	<b>Ladies Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330</b> BBQ Beef Sandwich Buffet BBQ Ribs 3	<b>Country Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330</b> Library, Story time 1000-1100. Ham & Cheese Stack on Rye Buffet Teriyaki Chicken 4	<b>Family Bowling Party @ 1800-2200. Ext 2575 3 games up to 5 people free shoes, Large Pizza and 6 sodas for \$25.00</b> Crab Louie Buffet Fish & Shrimp 5	 6
<b>National Grandparents Day</b> Blue Pin Bowling 1400 - 2200 Ext. 2575 (Free Go-Kart Ride W/Strike)  7	<b>Dance @ Fitness Call 1900 Ext 2488</b> Cobb Salad Buffet Italian Food 8	<b>Bowling League Tue &amp; Wed @ 1700</b> Tostada Grande Buffet Meat Loaf 9	<b>Ladies Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330</b> Dance @ Fitness 1900 Ext 2488 Chef Salad Buffet BBQ Beef Ribs 10	<b>Country Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330</b> CAPT Cup Bowling @ 1700 Ext. 2482 Stuffed Tuna Tomato Buffet Italian 11	<b>Family Bowling Party @ 1800-2200. Ext 2575 3 games up to 5 people free shoes, Large Pizza and 6 sodas for \$25.00</b> Super Sub Buffet Fish & Shrimp 12	 13
Blue Pin Bowling 1400 - 2200 Ext. 2575 (Free Go-Kart Ride W/Strike)  14	<b>DANCE @ FITNESS Call 1900 Ext 2488</b> Push Your Stroller Circuit Class 0800-0830 Call Ext 2488 Chef's Salad Buffet Tri Tip 15	<b>Bowling League Tue &amp; Wed @ 1700</b> Hot Beef Sand Buffet Baked Chicken 16	<b>Ladies Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330</b> Dance @ Fitness 1900 Ext 2488 Push Your Stroller Circuit Class 0800-0830 Call Ext 2488 Tri Scoop Plate Buffet BBQ Beef Ribs 17	<b>CAPT Cup Bowling @ 1700 Ext. 2482</b> Country Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330 Carne Asada Salad Buffet Salisbury Steak 18	<b>Family Bowling Party @ 1800-2200. Ext 2575 3 games up to 5 people free shoes, Large Pizza and 6 sodas for \$25.00</b> Shrimp Louie Buffet Fish & Shrimp 19	<b>National POW/MIA Recognition Day</b> Back to School Dance Ages 5-11 1800-2100 Ages 12-18 2100-2400 Call Ext 2644  20
Blue Pin Bowling 1400 - 2200 Ext. 2575 (Free Go-Kart Ride W/Strike)  21	<b>DANCE @ FITNESS Call 1900 Ext 2488</b> Push Your Stroller Circuit Class 0800-0830 Call Ext 2488 Rolled Tacos Buffet Ham & Cheese & Chicken Rolls 22	<b>Bowling League Tue &amp; Wed @ 1700</b> Cobb Salad Buffet Pork Chops 23	<b>Ladies Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330</b> Mongolian BBQ Dance @ Fitness 1900 Ext 2488 Push Your Stroller Circuit Class 0800-0830 Call Ext 2488 Jumbo Burrito Buffet BBQ Beef Ribs 24	<b>CAPT Cup Bowling @ 1700 Ext. 2482</b> Country Night @ the Mirage 2000 Ext. 2330 Teens Ages 13-18 Yrs Gonzos Golf @ Library Stuffed Avocado Buffet Mexican Food 25	<b>Family Bowling Party @ 1800-2200. Ext 2575 3 games up to 5 people free shoes, Large Pizza and 6 sodas for \$25.00</b> Shrimp Stir Fried Buffet Fish & Shrimp 26	<b>Free Fishing Day Outing</b> For more info call Joe at Ext 2486  27
Blue Pin Bowling 1400 - 2200 Ext. 2575 (Free Go-Kart Ride W/Strike)  28	<b>DANCE @ FITNESS Call 1900 Ext 2488</b> Push Your Stroller Circuit Class 0800-0830 Call Ext 2488 Beef Chimi Buffet Salisbury Steak 29	<b>Bowling League Tue &amp; Wed @ 1700</b> A new one Buffet Pork Chops 30	<b>* Weekend Camping Special 3-4 man tent, 3 bags \$15 for weekend Normally \$30 Call Ext 2486</b> <b>* Fuel Injection Cleaning Special \$45.00 does not include filter Call Ext 2689</b> <b>* Master Swim Daily @ Large Pool 1100-1200 Ext 2487</b> <b>* Water Aerobics Daily 1000-1100 &amp; 1830 @ Small Pool Ext 2487</b> <b>Lap Swim Large Pool 0600-0800</b>			

## Bowling Alley "Price Drops"

Bowler Burger	\$3.25	Cheese Pizza	\$11.50
Bacon Cheese Burger	\$3.40	One topping	\$12.00
Combo Plus Burger	\$5.10	Special	\$13.50
		Masterpieces	\$14.75

- \* Mirage Club Chef's Special and Buffet Menu M - F 1100 to 1400  
Monday - Thursday \$ 5.95 Fridays \$ 6.95 Salad Bar \$ 3.95
- \* Bowling Center delivery call Ext. 2918 between 1000 - 2130  
Pizzas/Burgers/Freedom Fries and Smoothies

## Congratulations to the September Yard of the Month Winners.



Officer  
LT Richard and  
Kimberly Braunbeck  
Senior Enlisted  
STG2 Ivan and Amy Snyder  
Junior Enlisted  
AM3 John and  
Luanne Morrison

Photos by Tony Hunt